

NEPA Next 50: Reflections on the National Environmental Policy Act Federal Agency Dialogue on Engagement and Consultation

Day 2: Engaging Native Nations and Incorporating Government-to-Government Consultation in the NEPA Process

October 21st, 2021, 11:00am – 1:30pm Eastern

[Click here to register for Day 2](#)

This forum will be held virtually. Please register using link above.

Agenda

Event Overview

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law on January 1, 1970, establishing a national policy for environmental protection and becoming a cornerstone of environmental legislation in the United States. Fifty years later, NEPA remains one of the most consequential environmental laws in the Nation's history and a standard for assessing impacts and engaging stakeholders and the public in major Federal actions.

While NEPA remains fundamentally similar today compared to when it was signed into law, it has not been immune to change. Over the years, shifting national priorities brought on by changing societal and environmental conditions have led to an evolution of NEPA strategies and approaches. Yet, as the Federal approach to NEPA implementation has evolved, certain elements remain cornerstones of the NEPA environmental review process, including interagency coordination, stakeholder engagement, Tribal engagement, and public involvement. Today, Federal agencies continue to work to improve upon these collaborative aspects of the NEPA process to better enhance project outcomes, strengthen relationships, protect public interests, and ensure efficient use of Federal resources.

To support Federal agencies' efforts to enhance collaboration, coordination, and engagement in NEPA processes, the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center) is partnering with the University of Arizona's Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy (Udall Center) to convene two virtual learning forums to understand how Federal agencies are adapting to evolving trends and continue to effectively collaborate with Tribes, partners, and the public in the context of NEPA implementation. These forums will provide a space for Federal agency representatives to reflect on their experiences with NEPA successes and shortcomings, and to explore activities and trends that will propel NEPA into the future.

The National Center is a program of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, an independent, nonpartisan Federal agency of the Executive Branch.

Day 2 – Engaging Native Nations and Incorporating Government-to-Government Consultation in the NEPA Process

October 21st, 11:00am– 1:30pm Eastern

Overview: A learning forum for Federal agencies to share best practices and lessons learned and to discuss trends relating to engaging Native Nations, including incorporating Government-to-Government Consultation and Federal regulatory processes, in the NEPA process.

Objectives:

- Share engagement, collaboration, and Government-to-Government Consultation best practices and lessons learned;
- Discuss how agencies are adapting to changing trends in the NEPA landscape;
- Discuss how agencies are adapting to the virtual landscape and how advancements in technology are changing the future of NEPA engagement;
- Identify opportunities for improved engagement and Consultation practices.

<i>Time (ET)</i>	<i>Topic</i>
11:00	<p>Welcome and Forum Overview</p> <p><i>Objective: Welcome participants, set-up Day 2, and get to know participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome – <i>David Brown, Ph.D., Udall Foundation; Andrea Gerlak, Ph.D., Udall Center</i> • Day 2 Overview and Agenda Review– <i>Brian Mannaring, Udall Foundation</i>
11:20	<p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p><i>Objective: Provide historic context, current outlook, and recent trends in NEPA Tribal engagement and consultation practices, setting a backdrop to explore NEPA’s legacy and future possibilities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaime Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
11:45	<p>NEPA Survey Findings and Participant Interaction</p> <p><i>Objective: Review findings from a recent NEPA engagement survey. Group reflection on survey results, keynote address, and exchange key issues and challenges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA Survey Findings – <i>Aaron Lien, Ph.D., Udall Center</i> • Facilitated participant engagement –<i>Alyssa Bonini and Mitch Chrismier, Udall Foundation</i>
12:00	<p>Break</p>

12:10	<p>Expert Panel Discussion: Overcoming Barriers to Successful Tribal Engagement in the NEPA Process</p> <p><i>Objective: Explore challenges that Federal agencies encounter with engaging Native Nations in the NEPA process and current best practices and options to support good engagement practices in the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark Gilfillan, Senior Tribal Liaison/Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers - Tribal Nations Center of Expertise ○ Hillary Renick, Tribal Liaison Coordinator, Office of Environmental Programs, Department of Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ○ Anne Thomas, Forest NEPA Coordinator, Tonto National Forest, Supervisor's Office, USDA Forest Service • Moderator – <i>Stephanie Lucero, Udall Foundation</i> • Q&A/Discussion
1:15	<p>Reflection on Proceedings</p> <p><i>Objective: Summarize key themes and findings from the keynote speaker and panel discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Clark, former Director, Tribal Relations Program for USDA Forest Service (retired)
1:25	<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p> <p><i>Objective: Adjourn and discuss next steps.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss next steps
1:30	<p>Adjourn</p>